

2001-51

>>> Mary Drouillard <marywdrouillard@yahoo.com> 08/13/03 09:44PM >>>

Please allow prosecutors to include other acts of violence when they attempt to prosecute offenders. I saw the effects of domestic violence first hand when I was an intern at HAVEN in Pontiac. Most survivors were afraid to go outside, even though our location was secret, because their partner had told them that he would kill them if he found them. Many showed evidence of post traumatic stress as a result of the tight control the perpetrator had on them -- making sure they had no money ever, not allowing them to leave the house, threatening them and their children continuously and monitoring their every move. They lived in fear. Domestic violence is a cycle of violence, and the evidence of past acts of violence help to demonstrate to jurors that the violent act that brought the perpetrator to trial almost certainly will occur again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Drouillard
Novi, MI